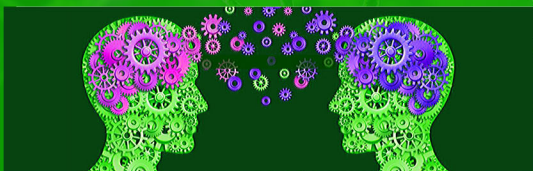


Our Philosophy and Mission

Philosophy: We believe in the development of occupational therapists into highly skilled practitioners through exposure to educational processes with a balance between mentorship, didactic, and experiential learning opportunities in targeted clinical environments.

Our program is designed to align with our facility's mission as well as the American Occupational Therapy Association's (AOTA) 2025 vision by having the fellow focus on maximizing health, well-being, and quality of life of veterans by providing effective solutions that facilitate participation in everyday living (www.AOTA.org).



Mission: To provide occupational therapists with the knowledge and abilities to progress their clinical and professional skills in a specialty practice area in order to become advanced practitioners by:

1. Using Evidence Based Practice when evaluating and providing interventions to clients
2. Effectively evaluating the outcomes of services delivered
3. Participating in scholarly activities and or opportunities
4. Engaging in collaborative inter-professional and cross sectoral partnerships
5. Increasing awareness of the unique occupational needs of Veterans and active duty service members

Teaching and Learning Methods

The program will facilitate learning through the use of a reflective learning model, in which the fellow will gain confidence in his/her clinical decision making skills, and increase his/her sense of autonomy through deliberate self-reflection. The program will advance the fellow along the learner continuum, and prompt opportunities that allow the fellow to discover through experience, reflection, and discussion.



Important Information

Fellowship Website:

https://www.tampa.va.gov/JAHVH_Mental_Health_OT_Fellowship_Program.asp

Contact Information:

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Occupational Therapy
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James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital PM&RS (117)
13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd, Tampa, FL 33612



MENTAL HEALTH OT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



Fellowship Program Description:

The Occupational Therapy Department at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital has developed a Fellowship Program dedicated to advancing the knowledge and skills of occupational therapists seeking to develop into highly skilled practitioners through exposure to educational processes with a balance between didactic/academic and experiential/clinical environments.

This unique opportunity offers a newly licensed graduate, Occupational Therapist the opportunity to fast track an American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) board certification in mental health.

The OT Fellow will gain valuable insight and experience through managing a clinical caseload with expert mentoring and didactic, experiential, and scholarly learning opportunities.

Facility/Program Highlights:

The James A. Haley VA is a Large, complex medical facility including:

- 12 rehabilitation programs accredited by CARF International
- State of the art rehab equipment and facilities
- Large dedicated OT staff with an average of 17 years in clinical practice
- Teaching facility with over 1500 trainees annually
- One of only five VA Polytrauma Centers in the nation
- An existing AOTA accredited OT Neurorehabilitation Fellowship Program
- Highly dedicated and experienced program mentors and subject matter experts
- On-site program faculty with designations of Board Certification in OT Mental Health, Certified Clinical Sexologist, and Lifestyle Redesign Specialist, with many years of experience

The OT Fellowship will be a paid position with benefits, accrued annual/sick leave and federal holidays. Must be a US Citizen.

Clinical Training:

- Consists of managing a caseload in a variety of settings including the Post-deployment Rehabilitation and Evaluation Program (PREP), the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program (CPRP), the Chronic Headache Management Program (CHAMP), the Substance Use Disorders (SUDS) Program, and the Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation Program (CIIRP)
- Emphasis on mental health conditions and their impact on occupational participation
- Well-rounded experience providing care in the inpatient and outpatient settings and delivering OT services both in-person and via telehealth
- One-on-one mentoring sessions with highly experienced clinical mentors/faculty
- Didactic curriculum with established scholarly activities and continuing education

Opportunities:

- Interdisciplinary patient rounds
- OT journal club meetings
- Evidence based practice work group meeting
- Staff in-service presentations
- Physical Medicine and Rehab grand rounds
- Mentoring doctoral and masters OT students on Level II fieldwork rotations
- Interdisciplinary collaboration and learning experiences with other OT fellows and PT residents
- On-site Medical Library, didactic resources and materials

Curriculum:

The JAHVH Mental Health OT Fellowship Program will focus on the participant's development of knowledge, competency, and advanced practice skills in the following core elements:

- Advanced Knowledge
- Reasoning and Performance Skills
- Ethical Practice Skills
- Interpersonal Skills
- Scholarly/Professional Activities

Curriculum Continued:

The fellow's clinical experiences will emphasize:

1. Acquisition of knowledge pertaining to mental health conditions, developing clinical reasoning skills in relation to evaluation and intervention.
2. Developing and using evidence-based practice skills as well as measuring outcomes when providing holistic occupational therapy services to clients.
3. Integration of the didactic knowledge and experiential practice to develop interpersonal, scholarly and professional skills in everyday practice.



Goals of the Program:

To educate and train a post professional OT graduates to:

1. Meet the needs of Veterans and active duty Service Members by becoming advanced OT practitioners in the area of mental health OT.
2. Demonstrate the use of evidence-based outcome measures and advanced clinical reasoning skills by critically assessing and appraising the current literature to guide evaluation and plan of care development that facilitates occupational participation.
3. Demonstrate understanding of the 2020 AOTA ethical principles and specialty specific ethical standards, and their implication into practice.
4. Demonstrate the ability to access and establish collaborative partnerships with stakeholders to maximize the occupational participation of clients.
5. Participate in scholarly activities such as a quality improvement project and case study development/presentation, that promote lifelong learning.
6. Exhibit the highest standards of professionalism.